THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s Air Deccan have commmenced scheduled operations with effect from September 29, 2003 at Vijayawada airport. Apart from this, non-scheduled operations are also taking place at this airport.

(d) Vijayawada airport is suitable for operation of Boeing 737 type of aircraft with restricted load in fair weather conditions.

Impact of Open Sky Policy on AI and IA

8. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Open Sky' policy for ASEAN is likely to hit the earnings of Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to prevent any adverse impact on the revenue of Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) At present, Government does not pursue 'Open Sky' Policy for ASEAN nations. Certain additional routes and entitlements have been offered to ASEAN nations on reciprocal basis during ASEAN-India Summit at Bali recently. Revenue implications of this offer for Air India and Indian Airlines can not be predicted at this stage.

Development of runway at Haridwar

†9. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL controlled runway at Haridwar is proposed to be developed as a regular runway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the steps being taken to provide proper air service to the city in view of its international importance as a religious city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

no plan for the development of BHEL controlled airstrip at Haridwar into a regular airport.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since no airline company has requested AAI to introduce air service from/through Haridwar, AAI has no plan to develop airstrip at Haridwar into a regular airport. Further, Airlines plan their operations on the basis of their judgement on commercial and operational viability.

Privatisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports

10. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof including FDI and foreign partners; and

(c) what precautions have been taken to ensure national interest in traffic control and civil aviation security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Government has approved re-structuring of airports at New Delhi & Mumbai of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Joint Venture (JV) route.

(b) Action has been initiated to appoint a Financial Consultant to assist AAI in restructuring process. FDI and foreign partners will be known only after successful joint venture partners for Delhi and Mumbai airports are selected.

(c) Functions relating to Air Traffic Services and Civil Aviation Security shall continue to be performed by AAI and are not proposed to be assigned to Joint Venture Company.

IA's joint venutre with Singapore Airlines for ground handling

11. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has decided to tie up with Singapore Airlines to handle the ground handling business;